

Today's News - Wednesday, April 9, 2014

- We are saddened to learn that we've lost Hull of Miller Hull Partnership much, much too soon.
- Davies pays eloquent tribute to Toomath: "His passing ends the career of one of the last purist modernists in New Zealand."
- Betsky cheers the Rebuild by Design proposals that "range from sexy to modest to radical - and everything in between. Through this effort we know how we can do it. Now we just have to do it - or move to Ohio."
- Goldberg cheers progressive cities "becoming laboratories for progressive policy innovation," and becoming "new sources of hope" ("We stop with the beautifying of the city, and we now dedicate ourselves to the bottom 20%," says Sassen).
- Barber explains why "nation states no longer work," and why we need to take our mayors more seriously: "Cities are a great place for social experiments."
- Heathcote calls out the current call for "garden cities": it seems the way to pacify NIMBY protest is to "apply the pastoral prefix 'garden' - represents a complete, perhaps deliberate, misunderstanding of a term founded on a utopian socialist dream."
- Steuteville parses a new National Realtors survey that shows walkable places are preferred: "Now that markets have shifted, Realtors are potentially influential supporters for urban place."
- Booth delves into Gehry's Battersea project - with no affordable homes: "he walked straight into a raging debate about London's affordable housing crisis" (" I can't demand there will be social housing in the middle of this project," sayeth the man).
- As a \$40 billion Egyptian affordable housing project gets underway, "some analysts expressed caution over the viability of the project."
- Eyefuls of the UN-Habitat Urban Mass Housing Revitalization Competition winners.
- Two architects tackle the task of "transforming China's poor rural areas through innovative design."
- High hopes that the Cornfield could be Los Angeles's own High Line, becoming "an urban catalyst" for mixed-use development.
- Brooklyn's Barclays Center to don a green toupee with hopes it will help muffle pounding concert music - and give upcoming residential towers a nice, green view.
- Lamster minces no words about those opposing the tearing down of Dallas's I-345 who "have issued forth with a series of red herrings and straw men in the hopes of derailing discussion - we've reached new heights in disingenuousness."
- Chipperfield beats out local talent to design the Nobel Prize HQ in Stockholm (lots of pix).
- Anderton leads a lively conversation re: Ban and his humanitarianism, and Hadid, ethics, and responsibilities of architects + Tom Saunders channels the feelings of MoMA and AFAM.
- RAIC 2014 Emerging Architectural Practice Award goes to Williamson Chong Architects for combining teaching, research, and community involvement.
- For those of us not wandering iSaloni in Milan, eyefuls from the "Where Architects Live" exhibition of "the homes of architecture's biggest players."
- Call for entries (deadline looms!): CTBUH 13th Annual Awards.

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Obituary: Robert Hull, 69: ...a founding partner of The Miller Hull Partnership...he began his design career in the New York office of Marcel Breuer, where his firm said he honed his modernist aesthetic.- Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce

The legacy of William Toomath, 88: ...one of the first New Zealand architects to study at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and to bring the highest level of overseas design knowledge to local conditions, budgets and scope...His passing ends the career of one of the last purist modernists in our country. By Jack Davies -- Architectural Group; Derek Wilson [images]- Australian Design Review

How to Rebuild to Cope with Climate Change: Proposals from the Rebuild by Design 10 finalist teams range from sexy to modest to radical—and everything in between: I hate to say it—because some of these designs are breathtaking—but good luck with that...our elected representatives have a bad record of improving our infrastructure...Through this effort we know how we can do it. Now we just have to do it—or move to Ohio. By Aaron Betsky -- OMA; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; West 8/WXY Architecture + Urban Design; SCAPE/Landscape Architecture; PennDesign/Olin; Cooper, Robertson, & Partners [images]- Architectural Record

The Rise of the Progressive City: ...political energy is gathering in cities, where social change is actually possible...becoming laboratories for progressive policy innovation...cities have become new sources of hope...Saskia Sassen: "We stop with the beautifying of the city, and we now dedicate ourselves to the bottom 20%"...good ideas spread among the cities. By Michelle Goldberg- The Nation

"Nation states no longer work": Benjamin R. Barber ["If Mayors Ruled the World"] believes that cities will triumph over nations. He explains why we need to take our mayors more seriously: "Cities are a great place for social experiments"- The European magazine

Ditch the nostalgia for a rural England that never was: The garden city...is sprouting: ...even in the midst of a housing crisis, MPs wary of nimby revolt steer clear of proposing new ones...But it seems there is one way to pacify protest: apply the pastoral prefix "garden"...Ebbesfleet Garden City...represents a complete, perhaps deliberate, misunderstanding of a term founded on a utopian socialist dream. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Realtors discover that walkable places are preferred: ...survey results are conflicted at times...Now that markets have shifted, Realtors are potentially influential supporters for urban place...Realtors could team up with urbanists and other supporters of urban place... By Robert Steuteville- Better! Cities & Towns (formerly New Urban News)

Battersea power station: Frank Gehry unveils plans for his first buildings in England: ...to build an 800-apartment complex in Battersea in London – with no affordable homes...he walked straight into a raging debate about the capital's affordable housing crisis..." I can't demand there will be social housing in the middle of this project." By Robert Booth [video]- Guardian (UK)

Arabtec hires architect for \$40 billion Egyptian housing project: ...UAE-based architect to master plan the construction of a million low-cost homes in Egypt...Some analysts expressed caution over the viability of the project. -- Architecture and Planning Group- The National (UAE)

Winners in UN-Habitat Urban Mass Housing Revitalization Competition: Placing Housing at the Center [link to images, info]- UN-Habitat

Villages given urban look through design: Architects from University of Hong Kong establish a foundation with the goal of transforming China's poor rural areas through innovative design...It happens under the umbrella of Rural Urban Framework set up by Joshua Bolchover and John Lin..."We're trying to help rural villages evolve as meaningful and viable places" ... -- South China Morning Post

Growing Strong: Could the Cornfield be Los Angeles' High Line? ...32-acre green space at the heart of the plan...looks poised to become an urban catalyst...will be serving people who are residents, retailers, and commercial tenants. [images]

A Roof Grows on Barclays Center: Brooklyn Arena Is Getting Dome Coated With Vegetation: ...slated to get a lot greener on the outside and possibly become a quieter neighbor in the process...resurrecting an idea that was cut years ago in an effort to contain costs...would help muffle concert music...to help contain the sound. -- SHoP Architects [image]- Wall Street Journal

The I-345 Tearout Plan Demands Reasoned Debate, Not Divisive Misdirection: ...it's been interesting —that is a generous word for it—to watch opponents scrambling to react...a host of respondents, becoming ever more desperate, have issued forth with a series of red herrings and straw men in the hopes of derailing discussion...we've reached new heights in disingenuousness. By Mark Lamster- Dallas Morning News

David Chipperfield triumphs in Nobel Centre contest: Only Brit on shortlist pulls it off...to create a new home for the Nobel Prize in Stockholm. -- Johan Celsing Arkitektkontor; Wingårdh Arkitektkontor [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

DnA/Frances Anderton: Shigeru Ban is praised for humanitarianism; Zaha Hadid is criticized for inhumanity. What are the ethics and responsibilities of architects? With Naomi Pollock, Guy Horton and Andrea Cohen Gehring/DLR + Everything Talks/Tom Saunders channels the feelings of MoMA and the American Folk Art Museum in light of the decision to tear down AFAM.- KCRW (Los Angeles)

Williamson Chong Architects named recipient of RAIC's 2014 Emerging Architectural Practice Award: ...recognized for an award-winning practice which combines teaching, research and community involvement.- Canadian Architect

iSaloni Peeks Into the Homes of Architecture's Biggest Players: ...“Where Architects Live”... seeks to represent not only where the architects under consideration live, but also how they live...the homes show the formal differences among the profiled designers, but underscore their shared devotion to the design practice. By Anna Kats -- Zaha Hadid; Daniel Libeskind; Massimiliano and Doriana Fuksas; David Chipperfield; Marcio Kogan/Studio MK27; Mario Bellini; Bijoy Jain/Studio Mumbai; Shigeru Ban [slide show]- Artninfo

Call for entries (deadline looms!): CTBUH 13th Annual Awards; includes new “Urban Habitat Award”; deadline: April 30- Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)

ANN Feature: Crowdsourcing Design: The End of Architecture, or a New Beginning? Why the criticism that crowdsourcing design sites like Arcbazar are taking jobs away from architects doesn't wash. By Michael J. Crosbie- ArchNewsNow

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